VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT 11

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VENOM
SPACE KNIGHT
CIVIL WAR II
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CIVIL WAR II

WHEN EUGENE "FLASH" THOMPSON LOST BOTH LEGS SERVING HIS COUNTRY, HE FORMED A SYMBIOTIC BOND WITH A BODY-MORPHING ALIEN PARASITE THAT ENABLED HIM TO CONTINUE HELPING OTHERS. NOW, FLASH IS SWASHBUCKLING HIS WAY ACROSS THE UNIVERSE AS

VENOM: SPACE KNIGHT

THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW INHUMAN WITH THE POWER OF PRECOGNITION HAS SAVED MANHATTAN FROM CERTAIN CALAMITY! BUT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS TRIUMPH, FACED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT THEY NOW POSSESS THE ABILITY TO FORECAST THE FUTURE, EARTH'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS ARE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE: PROTECT THAT FUTURE...OR CHANGE IT?

MEANWHILE, FLASH HAS BEEN SEEKING PURIFICATION OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE TO DESTROY HIS VILLAINOUS TENDENCIES. IT WAS REVEALED THAT VENOM COULD ONLY BE FREED FROM HIS DARK IMPULSES BY FINDING FLASH'S OLD FRIEND ANDREA BENTON AND DESTROYING HER HELL-MARK. WHILE IQA, TARNA, AND PIK AND HILLA ROLLO SET OFF TO FIND AN IMPORTANT PURIFYING ELIXIR, FLASH MUST RETURN TO THE EARTH THAT HE SO READILY LEFT BEHIND...

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NEW YORK, EARTH. NOW.
IT'S STRANGE. BEING HOME.
NEW YORKER
EVERYTHING IS THE SAME.
EXCEPT ME.
I CAME BACK HERE WITH THE GUARDIANS TO HELP OUR FRIEND, CAROL.*
*AS SEEN IN THE GLORIOUS GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #12!
AND MY NEW FRIENDS ARE ON A MISSION SIX MILLION LIGHT-YEARS FROM HERE. GIVE OR TAKE.
FORTUNATELY, THOUGH, WE'RE BOTH LOOKING FOR THE SAME THING...
SYMBIOTE SUBJECT FOUND. TRACKING PROGRAM INITIATED.

PLANET WENB, SIX MILLION LIGHT-YEARS FROM EARTH. GIVE OR TAKE.
...WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CURE.
WHAT A GLORIOUS PLANET.
MAY I PUNCH HER, MOTHER?
IF YOU DON'T, I WILL.
OW. I WILL NOT STRIKE A CHILD.
THAT RULE DIDN'T STOP ME FROM HITTING YOU.
WHOMP
THE TEMPLE USED TO BE HERE.
PERHAPS THE SANDS BURIED IT. OR BLEW IT AWAY...
...BUT NOTHING STAYS LOST FOREVER.
ALIEN TARGETS ACQUIRED. BEGINNING TRACKING SEQUENCE. SENDING ALERTS...

ROSE MANOR WELLNESS CENTER, MIDDLETON, NEW YORK.
C'MON, FLASH. STAY CALM.
THIS ISN'T A FIGHT.
YOU'RE JUST VISITING YOUR MOM.
...I'M GLAD TO HEAR SHE'S DOING WELL.
SHE HAS GOOD DAYS AND BAD. BUT I KNOW SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
REALLY?
SHE TALKS ABOUT HER KIDS ALL THE TIME.
HEY, MA.
KNOCK KNOCK

YOU LOOK WELL.
DON'T LOOK SO BAD YOURSELF.
I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF WORK IN HERE, EUGENE. I WASN'T ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU. I KNOW HOW YOUR FATHER COULD BE... WITH HIS DRINKING, AND I...
I WISH...
I KNOW...
HONEY, I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY, TOO, MA.
I'M SORRY, TOO.

PHILADELPHIA, EARTH. LATER.
I'M AVOIDING THIS. I'M AVOIDING...
...MANIA.
A.K.A. ANDREA BENTON. A.K.A. ANDI.
MY OLD PARTNER.
SHE'S BEEN FIGHTING CRIME ON HER OWN WITH PART OF THE SYMBIOTE, TAKING ON THE RED HAND GANG.
THEY'RE NEW. SPRUNG UP WHILE I WAS GONE.
SHE'S BEEN FIGHTING THEM ALL OVER TOWN.
BUT SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL.
I KNOW THAT FEELING.

I'VE BEEN GONE TOO LONG.
FLOATING THROUGH SPACE.
TARGET ALONE. CAGE PROGRAM INITIATED. C.E.O. INBOUND.
IT'S GOOD TO BE GROUNDED.
HEY...HEY, WHAT'S WRONG BUDDY?
WE...ARE... BEING...

SHOOM! SHOOM!
SHOOM! SHOOM!
...WATCHED!
SKREEEEEEEEE
GGGAHHH!
SONIC DISRUPTORS.
T.URN. IT. OFF!
THAT COLOR SCHEME. I KNOW IT...
HEYA, PAL...

...WE ARE WAY OVERDUE FOR A CATCH-UP.

THE TEMPLE...IT'S EMPTY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WE CANNOT BE THE ONLY ONES TO SEEK SUCH A TEMPLE.
NO...
...YOU MOST CERTAINLY AREN'T.
WHO ARE THEY? THIEVES?
WORSE.
THEY'RE SPACE KNIGHTS.

NOW, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING: WHO CATCHES UP WITH AN OLD FRIEND BY CAGING HIM?
BUT LAST TIME WE TANGLED, YOU WERE A BIT OF A HANDFUL.*
*AS SEEN IN SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN, NOW IN TRADE PAPERBACK AND ON MARVEL UNLIMITED!
SPIDER-MAN. LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU HAD QUITE A STICK UP YOUR--
NOW, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE RUDE.
I JUST WANT TO TALK...
...TO MY OLD PAL, FLASH THOMPSON.
YOU REMEMBER ME NOW?
HOW COULD I FORGET MY BIGGEST FAN?
"BIGGEST FAN," HUH?
WELL...

...THINGS CHANGE.
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? 'CAUSE YOU JUST DESTROYED A COUPLE MILLION IN R & D.
I DON'T LIKE CAGES.
BURNNNSSSS!
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON PUNCHES?
I KNOW, RIGHT?
EXO-SUIT-- LINED WITH MICRO-FIBERS THAT RADIATE HEAT ON IMPACT. THE HARDER YOU'RE HIT, THE HOTTER THE HEAT.
TAKE THAT, JOHNNY STORM.
AVAILABLE FROM PARKER INDUSTRIES IN THE FALL.

STOP-- DON'T DO THIS.

YOU'VE GOT MY FRIEND IN THERE.

FLASH THOMPSON...

WHAM!

...IS MY FRIEND, TOO!

GGRRRRAAGGGHHHHH!

WHOA!

THERE'S JUST NO TALKING TO YOU.

BUT MAYBE YOU'LL LISTEN...

...TO *THIS!*

INSPIRED BY A BUDDY OF MINE. REAL QUIET TYPE. YOU SPEAK *THROUGH* THE--

I UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS. WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY USE THAT FOR?

STOP!

COLLABORATE AND LISTEN.

SORRY.

NO... SPIDER-MAN... YOU DON'T...

DON'T WORRY, FLASH. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

SPIDER-MAN. PLEASE, THAT'S MY FRIEND. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, HE'S CHANGED--

I'LL BE HAPPY TO LISTEN TO ALL THIS ONCE HE'S CONTAINED, SECURED, AND BACK IN MY LAB--

OH CRAP, HE'S RIGHT BEHIND ME, ISN'T HE?

NOOOOOO GAGGGGEEE!
I CAN WORK WITH THA--
OOOF!
VENOM, DON'T--
AAAGGH!

OKAY, LET'S DO THIS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
WITH FISTS.
AND FEET.
THWIP!
AND WEBS.

RRRRIIIPPP!

OR NOT.

SO, THIS IS NEW--YOU CAN JUST BE YOU, NO NEED FOR A HOST. I MEAN, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE NOT SO NEEDY, BUT--

AAAGH!

NOOO GAAAAGGEE!

GOT IT. NO CAGE. AND NO HOST.

C'MON, V. WE'RE OLD FRIENDS. I USED TO *BE* A HOST, REMEMBER? LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS. MAYBE OVER LUNCH?

OR BRUNCH. BRUNCH WORKS, TOO.

I'M SURE THERE'S A GOOD ALL-DAY BREAKFAST JOINT AROUND HERE. AWAY FROM ALL THESE NICE--

THUD!

YOOOUUU...

...WERE A HOST?!

YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? THAT HURTS MY FEELINGS.

NO-- VENOM, *DON'T!*

WAIT! STO--
WELCOME BACCCKKKK!
TO BE CONTINUED!

TONGUES ARE WAGGING

Correspondents of the Cosmos! Write to us at GALACTIC@MARVEL.COM and don't forget to mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT"!

Hey, Flash Fanatics!

Here it is, the throwdown you've all been waiting for! VENOM VERSUS SPIDER-MAN! And Spidey back in the black suit! How's it all gonna pan out?!?! Well, looks like you'll have to wait until the next issue to find out! In the meantime, let's let Robbie reply to your lovely letters!

Take it away, Robbie!

Wow. This issue was amazing! As soon as I hit the second page I was blown away. This issue had the dark, gritty, and scary feel that I would expect from a Venom comic. I loved what was done with the series before, it was fun and entertaining, but this issue was gripping and suspenseful. I'm sure whatever direction you take this series, it will be amazing. What will Venom be up to during CIVIL WAR II?

Sincerely,
Mason Ricci
Walpole, MA

Thanks, Mason, we're so happy you dug the issue! One of the great things about working on VENOM is that the book can be gritty and scary, so I'm glad you enjoyed that! As for CIVIL WAR II, Venom is coming back to Earth to make things right with Mania. But as with all things Venom, it gets complicated very fast when Spider-Man shows up. Obviously, as you can see from this issue, they hug it out (with fists).

Hey guys,

I love the character arc of Flash Thompson from bully to soldier to amputee to super hero. He really has some great themes and messages in his story. And you guys are doing an amazing job of continuing that arc and giving him new challenges to face, mentally and physically, and bringing in even more great themes and messages related to the character. The art is amazing, both the brilliant realistic art in the first volume and the new volume's fantastic dark sketchy nature. The side characters are also great, and I really enjoy some of the stereotype-busting you guys do, with the incredibly cute panda being the galaxy's greatest killer. (We love you, Pik.) Also the humor is great, and grounds Flash's humanity even while he is in the middle of space. It's a really great book. Thanks.

Keep up the great work,
Luke Connelly

Hey Luke, couldn't agree more about Flash's journey as a character. He's grown so much over the years, and one of the things we wanted to do with this book was honor what's come before and continue to let Flash be challenged and changed as a character. And thanks for the kind words about the art -- we've been fortunate to have the best artists, colorists, and letterer in the business on this book. And we're big fans of Pik Rollo, too -- there's nothing that space bear can't do!

Oh, Pik Rollo, winning hearts and minds across the galaxy.

Thanks for the letters, dear readers! And thanks for the answers, dear Robbie! And thanks for these bookends, dear me!

That's it for this issue, come back next month to see more Spidey-sparrin', Klyntar-klashin', Flash-flippin' action! With extra bonus Mania!

Stay Weird!

Jake T.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

VENOM SPACE KNIGHT #12